

PART 772—PROCEDURES FOR ABATEMENT OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC NOISE AND CONSTRUCTION NOISE

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TABLE 1 TO PART 772—NOISE ABATEMENT CRITERIA

APPENDIX A TO PART 772—NATIONAL REFERENCE ENERGY MEAN EMISSION LEVELS AS A FUNCTION OF SPEED

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 109(h), 109(i); 42 U.S.C. 4331, 4332; sec. 339(b), Pub. L. 104–59, 109 Stat. 568, 605; 49 CFR 1.48(b).

SOURCE: 47 FR 29654, July 8, 1982; 47 FR 33956, Aug. 5, 1982, unless otherwise noted.

§ 772.1 Purpose.

To provide procedures for noise studies and noise abatement measures to help protect the public health and welfare, to supply noise abatement criteria, and to establish requirements for information to be given to local officials for use in the planning and design of highways approved pursuant to title 23 U.S.C.

§ 772.3 Noise standards.

The highway traffic noise prediction requirements, noise analyses, noise abatement criteria, and requirements for informing local officials in this regulation constitute the noise standards mandated by 23 U.S.C. 109(i). All highway projects which are developed in conformance with this regulation shall be deemed to be in conformance with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) noise standards.

§ 772.5 Definitions.

(a) *Design year.* The future year used to estimate the probable traffic volume for which a highway is designed. A time, 10 to 20 years, from the start of construction is usually used.

(b) *Existing noise levels.* The noise, resulting from the natural and mechan-

ical sources and human activity, considered to be usually present in a particular area.

(c) L_{10} . The sound level that is exceeded 10 percent of the time (the 90th percentile) for the period under consideration.

(d) $L_{10}(h)$. The hourly value of L_{10} .

(e) *Leq*—the equivalent steady-state sound level which in a stated period of time contains the same acoustic energy as the time-varying sound level during the same time period.

(f) *Leq(h)*. The hourly value of *Leq*.

(g) *Traffic noise impacts.* Impacts which occur when the predicted traffic noise levels approach or exceed the noise abatement criteria (Table 1), or when the predicted traffic noise levels substantially exceed the existing noise levels.

(h) *Type I projects.* A proposed Federal or Federal-aid highway project for the construction of a highway on new location or the physical alteration of an existing highway which significantly changes either the horizontal or vertical alignment or increases the number of through-traffic lanes.

(i) *Type II projects.* A proposed Federal or Federal-aid highway project for noise abatement on an existing highway.

§ 772.7 Applicability.

(a) *Type I projects.* This regulation applies to all Type I projects unless it is specifically indicated that a section applies only to Type II projects.

(b) *Type II projects.* The development and implementation of Type II projects are not mandatory requirements of 23 U.S.C. 109(i) and are, therefore, not required by this regulation. When Type II projects are proposed for Federal-aid highway participation at the option of the highway agency, the provisions of §§ 772.9(c), 772.13, and 772.19 of this regulation shall apply.

§ 772.9 Analysis of traffic noise impacts and abatement measures.

(a) The highway agency shall determine and analyze expected traffic noise impacts and alternative noise abatement measures to mitigate these impacts, giving weight to the benefits and cost of abatement, and to the overall